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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/755,731	01/12/2004	Harry Levinson	03-06	1114

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LAW OFFICE OF MONICA H CHOI
P O BOX 3424
DUBLIN, OH 430160204

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DANNY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2836

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/755,731

Applicant(s)

LEVINSON ET AL.

Examiner

Danny Nguyen

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-11, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/12/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 1/12/2004 has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that a copy of the article is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakano (PN 20030067734). 1 and 8, Nakano discloses a method for clamping a reticle (5) comprises clamping a first area of the reticle to a chuck (1) at a first time point (such as applying a first voltage to an electrode 2A to clamp a first portion of reticle 5 to the chuck 1), clamping a second area of the reticle to a chuck at a second time point (such as applying a second voltage to an electrode 2B to clamp a second portion of reticle 5 to the chuck 1) after the first time such that the reticle is flattened against the chuck (see figure 2b, and 2c).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2-4, 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Hausmann (USPN 5,880,923). Nakano discloses the second area is a frame is disposed toward an outer perimeter of the reticle. But does not disclose the first area is disposed in a center as claimed. Hausmann discloses an electrostatic chuck device clamping a first area and a second area with a voltage difference, wherein the first area is toward to a center of wafer (such as V3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the chuck device of Nakano to incorporate with the clamping toward a center as disclosed by Hausmann in order to provide a greater chucking force on a wafer.

4. Claims 6, 7, 13, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Gianoulakis et al (2002/0006556). Nakano discloses all limitations of claims 1 and 8, but does not teach the lithography system having wavelength as claimed. Gainouslakis discloses a lithography system has a wavelength in range of from 100 to 200 angstroms (0004). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the lithography system of Nakano to incorporate with the wavelength range as disclosed by Gainouslakis in order to achieve a smaller sizes (0004).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 15-19 are allowed.

Claims 5 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 15 recites a lithography system comprising an electrostatic chuck having a first pair of electrodes and a second pair of electrodes; a reticle having a first coating and a second coating facing the chuck; a voltage source; and a data processor that controls the voltage source to apply a voltage difference across the first pair of electrodes facing the first coating at a first area of the reticle at a first time point for clamping the first area to the chuck, and that controls the voltage source to apply a voltage difference across the second pair of electrodes facing the second coating at a second area of the reticle at a second time point for clamping the second area to the chuck, such that the reticle is flattened against the chuck. The references of record do not teach or suggest the aforementioned limitations, nor would it be obvious to modify those references to include such limitations.

Conclusion


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)-272-2054. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571)-272-2058. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DN

DN
8/7/2006



BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000